(iii) Efforts have been directed towards creating public awareness and educating the public and members of Animal Welfare Organisations/ Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on Animal Welfare related activities.

(iv) Encouragement and assistance is being given to Animals Welfare Organisations/Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, through the Animal Welfare Board of India.

(v) A Committee has been constituted to make recommendations to the Government for control and supervision of experiments on animals.

Running of Ferry Services along Sea Coast

*339. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start, regular ferry services from one port to another to carry passengers and goods along the East and West coast lines of the country in view of heavy rush on inland routes; and

(b) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Ignoring of Environmental Laws by the States

*340. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the State Governments are ignoring the environmental laws by issuing licenses to various polluting industries; and

(b) if so, what action or measures Government are contemplating to prevent such violations by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The State Pollution Control Boards give consent to establish or operate any industrial plant which is likely to cause pollution. The consent is given under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Government of India have issued a notification on 16.1.1991 withdrawing the powers delegated to the Central and State Pollution Control Boards to grant extention of time for discharging environmental pollutants in excess of the prescribed standards to any new units to be established. No violation of this stipulation has come to notice.

Proposal for Regularisation of Land

@3336. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has submitted any proposal to regularise land to those people in the forest areas who were tilling it for years up to 1980 and after;

(b) whether Government are making any efforts to regularise 12,000 hectares of such land in the State; and

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@ Previously Unstarred Question 2811, Transferred from 10th December, 1992.

(c) what are the districts which are likely to get this benefit in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A proposal has been received from Gujarat State Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for dereservation of 10,900 ha. forest area for regularisation of encroachments taken place on forest areas in different districts of Gujarat.

(b) No proposal has been received so far from Gujarat State Government for diversion of 12,000 ha. of forest land for regularisation of encroachments taken place on forest land.

(c) Does not arise.

Propaganda on Environment Protection

3337. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact, that a lot of propaganda is being carried out through the mass media about the need for protecting the environment; and

(b) if so, in the above context, what concrete action is being taken in the capital city of Delhi which is considered to be highly polluted with its multitude of vehicles: large number of factories emitting smoke and also Najafgarh Nullah and other water drains polluting the atmosphere and the Yamuna water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) An awareness programme has been taken up for preventing further deterioration of the environment.

(b) Industries in Delhi have been asked to comply with the consent requirements of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to limit the discharge of effluents and emissions to the stipulated standards within a time frame. The other steps taken to control pollution from large and medium scale industries in Delhi include the following:

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.

(iii) A network of ambient air quality and ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

(iv) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants and new industrial estates are planned to provide infrastructure for treatment of wastes generated from the units in that area.

(v) the subsidy to the extent of 50 per cent is provided to small scale units by the Delhi Administration for setting up pollution control devices.

(vi) Action for cleaning up the Yamuna river has been included under the Ganga Action Plan.

(vii) The Delhi Administration through the Transport Department has been implementing a scheme to control air pollution from exhaust of motor vehicles. This is being done by providing facilities for checking the emissions from vehicles of petrol stations. 110 Private workshops and petrol pumps have been authorised. An awareness campaign on Vehicular Pollution has been launched.

(viii) The Delhi Transport Corporation has set up a comprehensive action plan to reduce pollution and control smoke emissions from its buses. This action plan consists of (i) reducing smoke emissions by tuning vehicles/engines, (ii) acquiring buses for replacement of over-aged buses from the active fleet, (iii) reducing over-loading, (iv) introducing buses with fuel conserving engines, and (v) equipping the depots with smoke meters for monitoring the smoke levels of the fleet at the depots.